



**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**OCT 2020  
4th Week**

**OCTOBER 24-31**

**PracticeMock**

## CONTENTS

NATIONAL.....	3
STATES.....	5
INTERNATIONAL.....	6
REPORTS & SCHEMES.....	6
ECONOMY & BUSINESS.....	7
FINANCE AND BANKING.....	8
AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....	9
PERSON IN NEWS.....	9
OBITUARIES.....	9
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	10
SPORTS.....	10

## NATIONAL

1. Union Minister, Prahlaad Singh Patel virtually launched “**Life in Miniature**” project, it is a collaboration between **National Museum**, New Delhi, **Ministry of Culture** and **Google Arts & Culture**. The project enables Hundreds of miniature paintings from the National Museum’s collections to be viewed through Google Arts & Culture app.
2. The first ever virtual “**CII Agro & Food Tech: India -International Food & Agri Week**” was organized from October 16-22, 2020. It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). MoFPI also started an awareness campaign named “Anna Devo Bhava” to mark this occasion.
3. The Union Ministry of Rural Development has released the list of the top 30 districts in the country for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) programme. **Mandi** district of Himachal Pradesh tops the list.
4. India Meteorological Department (**IMD**) has dedicated first of its kind “**Flash Flood Guidance services (FFGS)**” for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to issue impact-based forecasting of floods.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated 3 Key Projects in Gujarat. The Projects are: Launching of **Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**. Inauguration of Paediatric Heart Hospital attached with U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre & Mobile Application for Tele-Cardiology. Inauguration of **Girnar Ropeway, Junagadh**.
6. **MCX** (Multi-Commodity Exchange of India) launched **India’s first real-time Base Metals Index- MCX METLDEX** in the commodity derivatives segment. Until now, Domestic Metal Prices were hinged to the London Metal Exchange (LME). METLDEX is based on Five base metals – **Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Lead, and Aluminium**.
7. Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT Jodhpur**) and National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) have signed a MoU to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.
8. NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has launched ‘**India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)**’ which will be organized by **NITI Aayog’s AIM** on December 7-8, 2020 in association with Australia’s national science agency, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).

9. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (**IIT-K**) and **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** have inked MoU with **Italy's** Ca' Foscari University of Venice, for creating a network of sharing skills for **restoration and protection of historical monuments**.
10. Department of Posts under Ministry of Communications (MoC) has released a commemorative postage stamp on the **75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) Organisation**.
11. India Post under Department of Posts (DoP) and United States Postal Service (USPS) have inked MoU for **Electronic Exchange of Customs data** related to postal shipments. The MoU was signed on the lines of Third India- USA 2+2 Ministerial dialogue held in New Delhi.
12. **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and Quality Council of India (**QCI**) launched the '**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPPF)**' to transform the infrastructure sector in India. It was launched by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Jairam Gadkari along with Union Minister Piyush Goyal, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and QCI Chairman Adil Zainulbhai.
13. Indian army has launched '**Infrastructure Management System (IMS)**' for automation of functions related to infrastructure development and management for ascertaining availability of land, planning and monitoring of works, and environment conservation.
14. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India has launched the virtual festival of 'Parampara Series 2020- National Festival of Music and Dance'. The Parampara Series 2020 is organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.
15. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology has launched a scheme titled '**SERB-POWER (Science and Engineering Research Board-Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)**', which is designed exclusively for women scientists. The scheme has been initiated by SERB, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
16. President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the '**Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020**' for Air Quality Management in Delhi- National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas. The commission will be headquartered at Delhi. The commission will supersede all other bodies and authorities on the aspect of air quality management and will have "exclusive jurisdiction" in the domain of air quality.
17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurated the **4th Edition of India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK** (Cambridge Energy Research Associates). CERAWEEK is a global platform to understand best practices, discuss reforms, and inform strategies for accelerating investments into Indian Oil and Gas value chain.

The Theme of 2020 edition is “**India’s Energy Future in a world of Change**”. It was organized by **NITI Aayog and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

## STATES

18. **Kerala** became the First State in the Country to fix **Minimum Support Price (MSP)/Base Price for 16 Agricultural items** which include Vegetables, Fruits and Tubers to support farmers and boost agricultural sector.
19. Ramsar Convention has declared **Kabartal Wetland** also known as Kanwar Jheel in Begusarai, **Bihar** as a **site of international importance**. Kabartal Wetland has been included in the ‘List of Wetlands of International Importance’ established by Article 2.1 of the Ramsar convention. Kabartal Wetland is the 2436th site of Ramsar.
20. Ramsar Convention has declared **Asan Conservation Reserve (ACR) in Dehradun** as a **site of international importance**. ACR has been included in the ‘List of Wetlands of International Importance’ established by Article 2.1 of the convention. This is the first wetland from Uttarakhand, to be recognised by Ramsar.
21. Maharashtra government has launched the digital platform “**Tarang Suposhit Maharashtra**”, The initiative aims to fulfil the nutritional needs of the lactating mothers and children of the state.
22. Jammu and Kashmir (**J&K**) became the first Union Territory in the country to operationalise **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** at the district level.
23. The State Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** has built a War Memorial at **Bum La**.
24. Tamil Nadu government is implementing the **Smart Black Board** scheme in **80,000 government schools**.
25. **Telangana** Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao launched ‘**Dharani**’ Portal for Land & Property Registrations. The portal is a one-of-its-kind integrated Land Record Management System.
26. **Punjab** Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)** for a 2-year project on transforming the ease of doing business for MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in Punjab.

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## INTERNATIONAL

27. International Coordinating Council of **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB)** programme has included **Panna Biosphere Reserve** of Madhya Pradesh (India), Fuvahmulah Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) and Addu Atoll Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) to **UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves**.
28. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, **Jitendra Singh** has addressed the **1<sup>st</sup> Ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group** virtually. During the Meeting, The Union Minister stated that India has committed to the policy of Zero Tolerance against Corruption and Unaccounted money.
29. 24th edition of **MALBAR exercise** will also see a participation of **Australia** making it **1<sup>st</sup> "quadrilateral" naval exercise**. This Quad exercise will take place in **India Ocean Region** viz. Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in a non-contact format amid COVID-19. The naval exercise will be held on **November 3-6** and November 17-20 with an objective of free and open navigation in the Indo-Pacific.
30. India hosted the third **India-United States (US) 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** in New Delhi where India side was represented by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister Dr. **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and the US side was represented by Secretary of State **Michael Richard Pompeo** and Secretary of Defense **Mark Thomas Esper**. India, U.S sign **five agreements** including 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement'.
31. Financial Action Task Force (**FATF**), Global Terror Financing Watchdog, has announced that **Pakistan** will remain on the **grey** list of FATF till February **2021**. The decision was made since Pakistan failed to fulfil 6 out of 27 mandates to check terror funding.
32. India has extended **USD 1 Billion** Line of Credit for **Development Projects in Central Asian Countries**. The announcement was made by India during the Second Meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue held virtually on 28th October 2020.
33. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways has announced that the 1.8 kilometre **Feni Bridge**, over the **river Feni** which connects Sabrum in Tripura, India and Ramgarh in Chittagong, Bangladesh will be completed by December 2020.
34. Researchers from the **Netherlands** Cancer Institute have discovered a **new pair of salivary glands** that is hidden between the nasal cavity and throat. The team proposed the name '**tubarial glands**' for the new discovery.

## REPORTS & SCHEMES

35. The 8th Governing Body Meeting of the State Health Society of the National Health Mission (NHM) was held in Chandigarh where **Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index** was released which was topped by

- Haryana** with a score of 46.7 among all the 29 states in the country. Anemia Mukh Bharat is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to reduce the prevalence of anemia all over India.
36. As per Ministry of Tourism annual publication titled '**India Tourism Statistics (ITS) at a Glance – 2020**', **Uttar Pradesh** tops the Domestic Tourist Visits list 2019. UP was followed by Tamil Nadu.
37. The Ministry of Labour and Employment announced the **extension of Employees' State Insurance (ESI)** scheme to **Arunachal Pradesh** with effect from 1st November 2020.
38. **Uttar Pradesh** has secured First Rank in Disbursing Loans under PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (**PM SVANidhi**) scheme by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country.
39. A report "**Human Mobility, Shared Opportunities: A Review of the 2009 Human Development Report and the Way Ahead**" was released by the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) stating how governments can shape migration to benefit development and boost recovery. *Report cited a research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), which found that a percentage increase in the migrant share of the population in high income countries boosts per capita income by 2%. If immigrants increased the workforces of wealthy countries by 3%, that would boost world GDP by US\$356 billion by 2025.*
40. United Nations (UN) released the report titled "**The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics**" which stated that no country has achieved the goal of Gender equality however the attitudes of **discrimination have slowly changed**. The status of women has improved with regard to education, early marriage, childbearing and maternal mortality but remains stagnant in other areas.
41. As per the latest **World Bank's 'Migration and Development Brief**, remittance to India will **fall by 9% to USD 76 billion** due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and global economic recession. The top 5 countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances are expected to be India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt, unchanged from 2019.



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## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

42. The Labour and Employment Ministry has **revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index** for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to **2016** to reflect the changing consumption pattern. It gives more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weightage given to food and beverages.

CPI-IW index is used to measure inflation in retail prices, for regulation of Dearness Allowance (DA) of government employees and industrial workers, and for fixing and revising minimum wages in scheduled employments.

43. Government of India **GeM (Government eMarketplace) has been integrated with eProcurement System of India** Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) for creation of a Unified Procurement System.
44. NITI Aayog has constituted a 14-member advisory committee headed by **Rajiv Kumar**, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog to **evaluate the reforms in the urban planning education system**.

## FINANCE AND BANKING

45. The Reserve Bank of India has issued the revised regulatory framework for housing finance companies (HFCs) under which the minimum net owned funds (**NOF**) **size for HFCs is fixed at Rs 25 crore**. It also finalized guidelines to set up **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for Payment System Operators (PSOs) under Companies Act, 2013. RBI decided the two interoperable QR codes in existence – Unified Payments Interface (UPI) QR and Bharat QR will continue as at present.
46. **Mastercard** has entered into partnership with **Atlantis** to expand the Digital First Program in India.
47. **SBI Card** in association with **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** launched 'Delhi Metro- SBI Card', a Multipurpose Credit Card for Delhi Metro Commuters.
48. **NTPC** (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) Limited has signed foreign currency loan agreement with **Japan Bank** for USD 480 million.
49. **IndusInd Bank** announced that it has **IndusInd Bank becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> bank in India to** go live as a Financial Information Provider (FIP) under the new Account Aggregator (AA) Framework of the Reserve Bank of India.
50. Punjab National Bank (**PNB**), India's 2nd largest public sector bank launched the **PNB Tracking & Monitoring Staff Accountability Cases (TMSAC)** portal and PNB's 2020 Vigilance Manual.
51. International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) approved the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 and International Financial Services Centres Authority (Global In-House Centres) Regulations.
52. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has released final guidelines for housing finance companies (HFC) stating that these home financiers should have **at least 60%** of their net assets deployed in the business of providing finance for housing by March 31, 2024, with individual loans making up at least 50% of all assets.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

53. **NTPC Limited** tops the list of Indian Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) featured in the 4th annual “**World’s Best Employer 2020**” list published by Forbes.
54. Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) of India, won the 2020 **United Nations (UN) Global Climate Action Awards** under Financing for Climate Friendly Investment for its efforts to combat climate change amid COVID-19 pandemic.
55. **Global Finance**, New York based trade publication released the list of World’s 50 Safest Banks 2020 which named DBS Bank of Singapore as the Safest Bank in Asia for the 12th consecutive year. Global Finance has named State Bank of India (**SBI as the Safest Bank in India**).
56. During India **International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB)**, the Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 was accorded to Late Actor **Om Puri**.

## PERSON IN NEWS

57. **Saad El-Din Hariri** was elected as the Prime minister of **Lebanon**.
58. **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary (Labour and Employment), Ministry of Labour and Employment was elected as the **Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)** for the period October 2020- June 2021.
59. **Parle Agro** has appointed **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** as the national brand ambassador.
60. India origin **Wavel Ramkalawan** was elected as the President of **Seychelles**. The capital and currency of Seychelles is **Victoria & Seychellois rupee** respectively.
61. **Alpha Condé** has won the 3rd term as the President of **Guinea**.
62. **Luis Arce** has become new President of **Bolivia**.

## OBITUARIES

63. Retired Wing Commander **Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramanan**, first woman commissioned officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has passed away at the age of 96. She was born in February 1924 in Madras (now Chennai), British India.
64. First Home Minister of Telangana **Nayani Narasimha Reddy** has passed away.
65. **Keshubhai Savdas Patel**, former Chief Minister of Gujarat and veteran leader of Bharatiya Janata Party has passed away. He was born in 1928 in Visavadar, Junagadh, Gujarat.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

66. 75th anniversary of United Nations was celebrated as UN Day on **October 24**. During the high-level event of the 75th anniversary celebrations political declaration was adopted. The declaration was negotiated through an intergovernmental process under the theme "**The future we want; the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism**".
67. **World Polio Day** is annually observed across the globe on **24th October**. The theme of 2020 World Polio Day is "A win against polio is a win for global health".
68. The '**Vigilance Awareness Week**' 2020 is observed in India from October 27 to November 2, 2020 by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). This year the week is being observed on the theme "**Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)**".
69. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the three-day National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption organized by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the theme of vigilance week.
70. **International Animation Day** is annually celebrated across the globe on **October 28**.
71. The **International Internet Day** has been annually celebrated on **29th October** since 2005 to mark the anniversary of the first internet transmission on 29th October 1969.

## SPORTS

72. British Driver **Lewis Hamilton** of Mercedes has won the 2020 **Portuguese Grand Prix** held at Algarve International circuit, Portugal. With this win, Lewis Hamilton became the most successful driver of Formula One with **92 wins**. Hamilton has moved one ahead of Schumacher's record of 91 wins.

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